

PAVING THE WAY FOR IMPROVED ROADWAYS
2005 STREET CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

WINTER IS WINDING DOWN AND THE CITY IS PREPARING FOR THE SECOND OF MINNESOTA’S seasons: road construction. These projects are paving the way for safer, more efficient and less-congested roadways in Bloomington. For more information, call Engineering at 952-563-4870. For a complete listing of street projects, visit the City’s Web site at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keywords: Bloomington street.



AMERICAN BOULEVARD

American Boulevard between Dupont and Nicollet avenues will be widened and reconstructed beginning this summer through 2006. The road design will feature terra cotta concrete behind the curb and center medians with trees and shrubs.

LYLE BERG BRIDGE OVER I-35W

The Lyle Berg Bridge over I-35W along American Boulevard began construction last fall and will continue this year. The opening is planned for fall 2005.



AIRPORT SOUTH

Airport South continues to develop and change with the next phase of the Mall of America, Bloomington Central Station, the construction of a new airport runway and the opening of light-rail transit. Further roadway enhancements are scheduled for mid-summer, including median modifications along American Boulevard and an additional right-turn lane at American Boulevard and 24th Avenue.



CITY RECEIVES
ENGINEERING AWARD
PUBLIC WORKS RECOGNIZED FOR
STREET IMPROVEMENTS

THE CITY’S ENGINEERING DIVISION, along with consultant URS Corporation, received the 2005 Honor Award from the American Consulting Engineers Council for planning, designing and constructing infrastructure improvements associated with the ongoing development of the Mall of America’s second phase. The improvements included American Boulevard reconstruction and realignment, sanitary sewer extension, IKEA site development and Lindau Lane reconstruction.

CLEANING UP
AFTER WINTER
STREET SWEEPING BEGINS

AROUND THE FIRST WEEK OF APRIL, Street Maintenance launches its annual spring-cleaning campaign to rid city streets of debris, dirt and sand left over from a winter of ice control. A clean sweep of all Bloomington streets takes about six to eight weeks. To protect the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District from pollutants, streets in that area are swept first. Crews work two weekday shifts, beginning at 4 a.m. and ending at 8 p.m., and then move into other neighborhoods. Sweeping starting points are rotated each year. Sand and debris collected by street-sweeping crews are sent through a screener/shredder for sorting and cleaning. Cleaned sand is later reused for ice control on streets. Remember to keep a safe distance from street-cleaning equipment in operation. For more information, call 952-563-8760.



RESIDENTIAL STREETS

Public Works relies on the Pavement Management Program to identify, inventory and track street condition. Under the program, selected streets receive an overlay (resurfacing of the top-wearing surface of the pavement) or a full reconstruction (complete rebuilding of the pavement structure). To best utilize maintenance dollars, staff regularly updates the condition of each street in a computer database. This ensures the appropriate maintenance at the appropriate time. Current street projects have been approved by the City Council. For a list of projects, visit the City’s Web site www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keywords: Street construction.

AIRPORT EXPANSION
PLANS TO INCREASE CAPACITY AT MSP AND ITS TERMINALS



For more information, call MAC’s Noise Complaint and Information Line at 612-726-9411 or visit www.macnoise.com.



The new runway is being constructed parallel to TH77 (Cedar Avenue) between TH62 and I-494. Increasing the airport’s total capacity by about 25 percent, the new runway will handle approximately 37 percent of take-offs and 17 percent of landings.

CHANGES ARE ON BOARD AT THE Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport (MSP) to meet increasing travel from the sixth busiest airport in the nation. Many airports around the country experienced sharp drops in use since September 2001, but MSP’s usage is taking off. Passenger growth is expected to increase from 33 million in 2003 to 55 million in 2020. Some improvements that increase the airport’s capacity to handle more flights are nearing completion. One of the most significant improvements is

the construction of a new north/south runway that will add 25 percent more operational capacity, helping to reduce congestion and delays at the airport. The runway is scheduled to open in October. When the runway is being used, increased aircraft noise will impact residents in Bloomington who currently experience little or no aircraft noise. This includes residents east of TH77 near the runway’s centerline and residents along the south side of Bloomington where departing aircraft turn toward destinations to the west.

The City Council and the City of Bloomington have successfully ensured that the homes most affected by noise will be acquired and operational measures will be implemented to reduce noise impacts on residents. The Council and the City continue to advocate for insulation of homes in the 60 to 64 dB noise contours. The Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) is currently reviewing Northwest Airline’s 15-year plan to meet the airport’s future aviation growth demands. The \$721 million 2020 Vision Plan proposes an additional 46 new gates by expanding the Humphrey Terminal, adding new gates at Lindbergh, and relocating some airlines from the Lindbergh to the Humphrey Terminal. MAC says the plan will position MSP to meet future growth demands and continue the airport’s strong position among large U.S. airports.



SWEEPING TECHNOLOGY

As Maintenance crews sweep city streets this spring, residents can check their progress on the City’s Web site. To view the street-sweeping schedule by using an interactive map of Bloomington, visit ci.bloomington.mn.us, keywords: My World.